Amendments to the Claims

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for handling digital sound sequences in a telecommunications system having a PBX comprised of a CPU, a working memory that is connected to the CPU, and a switch device connected to the CPU, ~~switching network,~~ the method comprising:

storing digital sound sequences on the working memory of the PBX;

~~establishing connections to a telecommunication terminal via the; switching network by the telecommunications system;~~

connecting a plurality of telecommunication terminals to the PBX;

holding a connection request from at least one telecommunication terminal requesting a connection to another communication terminal;

the CPU of the PBX accessing the working memory of the CPU;

the switch device of the PBX transmitting the digital sound sequences from the working memory to the at least one telecommunication terminal while the connection request of the at least one telecommunication terminal is being held.

~~outputting sound sequences via the switching network to the telecommunications terminal by the telecommunications system; and~~

~~using at least a part of the working memory to store the digital sound sequences.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ wherein the CPU performs a data transfer of the ~~digitally~~ stored digital sound sequences between the working memory and the switch device for the switch device to transmit the digital sound sequences to the at least one telecommunication terminal while the connection request of the at least one telecommunication terminal is being held, the switch device being comprised of at least one switch or at least one PCM switch. ~~switching network.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the PBX is also comprised of a time slot assigner (TSA) and ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12, wherein~~ data is transferred serially in packets ~~packet by packet~~ between the PBX and the telecommunication terminal being held, the CPU connected to the TSA such that the TSA is ~~and a time slot assigner (TSA)~~ configured to assign the digital sound sequences to programmed timeslots. ~~is used between the working memory and the switching to assign the digital sound sequences to programmed timeslots.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the PBX is also comprised of a time slot assigner (TSA), ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 13,~~ wherein data is transferred packet by packet and the CPU is connected to the TSA such that the TSA is ~~a time slot assigner (TSA)~~ configured to access ~~is used between~~ the working memory ~~and the switching~~ to assign the digital sound sequences to programmed timeslots.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ wherein the TSA is comprised of a FIFO shift register configured ~~register is used in the time slot assigner (TSA)~~ to support a packet-by-packet data transfer of the digital sound sequences.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 15,~~ wherein the TSA is comprised of a FIFO shift register configured ~~is used in the time slot assigner (TSA)~~ to support a packet-by-packet data transfer of the digital sound sequences.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ wherein the PBX is also comprised of ~~in order to unload the CPU~~ a microcontroller connected to the CPU such that the microcontroller ~~is used between the working memory and a time slot assigner (TSA), wherein the microcontroller~~ is initialized by the CPU to perform a ~~the~~ transfer of the digital sound sequences.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ wherein the microcontroller is a Direct Memory Access (DMA) controller or a Peripheral Exchange Control (PEC) controller.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ wherein the PBX is also comprised of ~~in order to unload the CPU~~ a microcontroller connected to the CPU such that the microcontroller ~~is used between the working memory and a time slot~~

~~assigner (TSA), wherein the microcontroller~~ is initialized by the CPU to perform the transfer of the digital sound sequences.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ wherein the CPU requests the microcontroller to set a ~~the~~ start address of the digital sound sequences in the working memory and to set a ~~the~~ destination address in the FIFO shift register of the TSA ~~the time slot assigner (TSA)~~ in order to play back the digital sound sequences.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ further comprising recording sound sequences, wherein the PBX is also comprised of a microcontroller connected to the CPU and the working memory and a TSA connected to the working memory, the TSA having a FIFO shift register, the CPU configured to request that ~~requests~~ the microcontroller ~~to~~ set a ~~the~~ start address of the digital sound sequences in the FIFO shift register of the TSA ~~time slot assigner (TSA)~~ and to set a ~~the~~ destination address in the working memory for recording sound sequences.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ wherein the CPU requests the microcontroller to set the start address of the digital sound sequences in the FIFO shift register of the TSA ~~time slot assigner (TSA)~~ and to set the destination address in the working memory for recording sound sequences.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ further comprising:

digitizing sound sequences and storing the digitized sound sequences in the working memory by at least one component of the telecommunications system.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ wherein at a predefined ~~certain~~ filling level of the FIFO shift register, the TSA is configured to transmit an interrupt command ~~time slot assigner (TSA) requests~~ the CPU ~~by an interrupt command~~ to start or to stop a new data transfer.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ wherein the digital sound sequences are Music on Hold, ~~MOH (=Music on Hold),~~ voice sequences, or signal tones.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 ~~as claimed in the preceding claim 12,~~ wherein program code and/or data of telecommunications subscribers are ~~being~~ stored in the working memory.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for handling digitally stored sound sequences in a telecommunications system having a PBX comprising a CPU, a working memory for the CPU, and a switching apparatus, ~~switching network,~~ the method comprising:

digitally storing sound sequences in the working memory;

~~setting up connections to~~ connecting telecommunications terminals to the PBX via the switching apparatus; ~~network by the telecommunications system; and~~

holding a connection request of at least one telecommunications terminal;

outputting sound sequences from the working memory via the switching apparatus ~~switching network~~ to the at least one telecommunications terminal that has the connection request being held; and ~~terminal, wherein~~

the CPU accessing at least a portion ~~part~~ of the working memory ~~is used to store the~~ for the switching apparatus of the PBX to output the digitally stored sound sequences.

30. (Currently Amended) A PBX ~~telecommunications system,~~ comprising:

a CPU having a working memory; and

a switching device configured to connect to a plurality of communication terminals, the CPU connected to the switching device, the plurality of communication terminals comprised of a first communication terminal and a second communication terminal;

the working memory having digital sound sequences;

the CPU configured to cause a request for a connection to the second communication terminal that is transmitted by the first communication terminal to be held; and

the CPU configured to access the working memory such that the switching device transmits the digital sound sequences from the working memory to the first communication terminal while the request for a connection to the second communication terminal is being held.

~~network for connecting a terminal; and~~

~~mechanisms for performing the method as claimed in claim 12.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The PBX ~~telecommunications system~~ of ~~according to~~ claim 30 wherein the PBX is also comprised of a TSA connected to the CPU and the working memory, the TSA having a FIFO shift register configured to support a packet-by-packet data transfer of the digital sound sequences for transmitting the digital sound sequences from the working memory to the first communication terminal. ~~claim 30, wherein the mechanisms for performing the method as claimed in claim 12 are program mechanisms and/or program modules.~~

32. (New) The PBX of claim 30 wherein the PBX is also comprised of a TSA connected to the CPU and the working memory, the TSA configured to access the working memory to assign the digital sound sequences to programmed timeslots for transmitting the digital sound sequences from the working memory to the first communication terminal.

33. (New) The PBX of claim 30 also comprising a TSA and a microcontroller, the TSA connected to the CPU and the working memory, the TSA having a FIFO shift register, the microcontroller connected to the CPU and the working memory, the microcontroller configured

to set a start address of the digital sound sequences in the FIFO shift register and a destination address in the working memory for recording sound sequences.